

## Naval War College Review

---

Volume 21  
Number 4 *April*

Article 26

---

1968

# The Diplomacy of a New Age

T. S. Estes

Dexter Perkins

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

---

### Recommended Citation

Estes, T. S. and Perkins, Dexter (1968) "The Diplomacy of a New Age," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 21 : No. 4 , Article 26.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol21/iss4/26>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu](mailto:repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu).

ority. *Peace and the Strategy Conflict* is a valuable contribution to the rapidly growing amount of material available on modern strategy. It is rewarding reading and is recommended to those who are interested in broadening their understanding of strategic considerations.

S.L. RITCHIE

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

McCarthy, Eugene J. *The Limits of Power*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967. 246 p.

Senator McCarthy's thesis is largely indicated in his title: the United States, though the greatest power in the world, is not omnipotent; hence, the idea of being "responsible" for almost everything that goes on in the world is a dangerous illusion. This summary statement reveals that Senator McCarthy stands, with Senator Fulbright and others, as a critic of the "abuse of power" by recent U.S. Administrations, but especially that of President Johnson. McCarthy both analyzes what he believes to be specific forms of "abuse" and briefly prescribes alternative uses of American power. The book contains 10 chapters. Chapters I-IV include a summary of the need to reappraise our responsibilities; a critique of the sense of power held by Acheson, Dulles, and Rusk; and a caustic dissection of the U.S. military assistance program and the operational aspect of the Central Intelligence Agency. Chapters V-X contain analyses of the main problems in, and suggestions for American policy toward, major parts of the world: Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. McCarthy's book is of curiously mixed quality. Some portions of it read like a primer on U.S. foreign policy and are of no interest whatever to anyone who has some acquaintance with the subject. Also, there is a curious disproportion of treatment: there is a whole chapter on the United States trust territory of Micronesia, equal in length to the chap-

ter on Europe! On the other hand, the chapters on the Military Assistance Program and on the Central Intelligence Agency reveal careful work and are well worth reading. Finally, as a document to reveal the thoughts of a "maybe" contender for the Presidency, the book is of modest interest.

R.H. COX

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Perkins, Dexter *The Diplomacy of a New Age*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1967. 190 p.

The subtitle of this very readable little book is *Major Issues in the U.S. Policy since 1945*, and it seems more descriptive of the author's work than the main title, at least to this reviewer. Professor Perkins begins his study with an analysis of the gradual deterioration of United States postwar relations with the Soviet Union, describing the principal events that contributed to the end of the wartime unity. But the root causes, the author suggests, were the divergence of views in the ideological sphere between Washington and Moscow, the fact that what Russia held she intended to keep, and Russia's hopes for the collapse of Europe. From this foundation, Dr. Perkins deals with the major responses of the United States to Russia and the threat of communism in successive chapters devoted to the Marshall Plan, (self-interest, but *enlightened* self-interest); the North Atlantic Pact ("NATO is one of the many auguries of a more integrated Western society"); United States policy in the Far East (it "rests to a substantial degree on emotional grounds"); United States policy in Latin America ("we must take account of the forces that divide as well as the forces that unite, and that make the threat of subversion something to reckon with"). In his concluding chapter, "Today," the author asks how American power has been used. He rejects the charge of "arrogance." The dignity of

man, he states, consists of his effort to improve the milieu in which he and his fellows live. While there is reason for pride in the contemplation of American foreign policy, there is no reason for complacency; the United States does not control the future of the world. But the study of foreign policy "ought to teach us to do what we can to see that our own country in serving its own interests, also serves the interest of mankind."

In these parlous days when U.S. policies are being attacked both abroad and at home, it is a relief and pleasure to read a sober, factual analysis of American foreign policy over these past 20 years by a qualified writer who tells us that Americans can be proud of their country. This book is highly recommended for inclusion in the library of anyone concerned with United States foreign policy in this new age.

THE HON. T.S. ESTES  
State Department Adviser

Reston, James. *The Artillery of the Press*. New York: Harper & Row, 1966. 116 p.

Mr. Reston's expressed purpose in writing this book was "to define and illustrate the problems of conducting American foreign policy in the last third of the twentieth century with a press and a Constitution whose traditions were formed in the last third of the eighteenth century." His motivation for its preparation came from a deep-rooted conviction, formed over 20 years ago as the result of an unusual experience in Moscow, that the press should be something more than simply an instrument of the government. Different theories of the proper relationship between reporters and officials have been of special interest to him ever since. In this recent volume, based on lectures given in the Elihu Root series before members of the Council of Foreign Relations in 1966, he has attempted to offer practical

suggestions for improving relations between reporters and officials in government. His theme is that the growing power of the United States in world affairs, and more particularly the growing power of its President, requires a relentless barrage of facts and criticism "as noisy but also as accurate as artillery fire."

Regarding the role of the press as critic rather than as the compliant instrument of government, his observation is that American reporters worry about their dilemma between obligation to country and obligation to truth much more than is generally realized. Mr. Reston is particularly well qualified to address his subject, both from his experience as an active reporter of the news and as a trusted and respected adviser to officials in government; he is one who is, and has been for years, in a unique position to observe closely, assess, and pass judgment on the relationship between officials and members of the various news media. Fascinating and thought-provoking reading is provided in his candid and very astute analysis of the techniques employed before the public and behind the scenes by officials in government and reporters alike and in his discussion of the many elements to be considered in selecting and preparing items to be presented to the public through the wide range of modern news channels. In today's shrinking world, with virtually instantaneous communications and a growing capability to report almost anything and everything, the forces, techniques, pressures, and problems which serve to control and manage the news are of vital and continuing interest to everyone. Mr. Reston's book makes a very worthwhile contribution to the literature available on this subject and should be a must on every officer's reading list.

J.G. BONIFACE  
Captain, U.S. Navy